[*Translation*]

Development of Tourist Spots in Bihar

2033. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to develop Kodarma, Hazaribagh and Giridih in Bihar as tourist spots;

(b) if so, the total amount likely to be incurred during the next financial year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However the Department of Tourism provides Central Financial assistance to State Government for the projects based on their merits, inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

The Department of Tourism has sanctioned a Tourist Complex at Hazaribagh during 1991 and a cafetaria at Tilaiya in Kodarma during 1993-94. The Government of Bihar has not submitted any proposal for development of Giridih.

At the beginning of each financial year, the Central Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Governments/U.T's prioritizes projects for central financial assistance.

Dues from Various Agencies to Doordarshan

2034. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA:
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount is to be paid to Doordarshan by various agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to recover the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) An approximate amount of Rs.36 crores is outstanding against various agencies for the period January, 1976 to March, 1996. These dues have accumulated due to the manifold increase in business/ commercial transactions of Doordarshan.

(c) Doordarshan is taking recourse to the contractual provisions including encashment of bank guarantee, de-registration/de-accredition of defaulting agencies, arbitration and legal action for recovery of dues.

Loni Telephone Exchange

2035. SHRI SOHANBEER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone subscribers have been disappointed with the functioning of Loni Telephone Exchange in Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of complaints received from the telephone subscribers during 1996; and

(d) the details of the time taken to attend/repair the faults?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) 3,427.

(d) Out of total 3,427 complaints received, no fault was found in 453 cases. Out of 2,974 faults, 2,379 faults (about 80%) were rectified on the same day, 416 faults by the next day and the remaining 179 faults within 7 days.

[*English*]

Gauge Conversion

2036. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:
DR. ASIM BALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to take up conversion of Shantipur-Nabadwip Ghat railway line into broad gauge;

(b) whether survey work is likely to be conducted immediately for conversion of this railway line;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Preliminary Engg.-Cum-Traffic survey was done in 1992 revealed that the line would not be viable, as such, the project could not be considered for being taken up.

Use of Iron Ore

2037. SHRI K. KANDASAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to set up a full-fledged Steel Plant at Salem using the Kanjamalai iron ore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?